THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Under the strategy of Special Component Plan (SCP) evolved by the Planning Commission, the State Governments are required to make SCP by earmarking a percentage of Plan fund in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the State. Fund provided under SCP is utilized on implementation of different schemes for welfare of the notified SC communities of the State including the Nav-Buddhas. Details on scheme-wise amount allocated and utilized by the State Government under the SCP is maintained by the State Government concerned.

Implementation of SCP and overfall flow of fund to SCP is looked into by the Central Government while earmarking 25% of the Special Central Assistance, which is provided as an additive to the SCP. Followings steps are being taken by the Central Government for ensuring implementation of SCP by the State Government in a proper manner:—

(i) Implementation of SCP by the State Government is monitored on regular basis.

(ii) State Governments have been requested for making special projects by dovetailing subsidy out of SCA with loan under NSFDC scheme.

Misuse of Adoption Homes

1630. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the large scale misuse of adoption homes in Andhra Pradesh recently, her Ministry has taken a decision to unearth such agencies run by voluntary agencies in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any directive in this regard has been issued to the State Governments;

(c) whether this question has been discussed with the State Home Minister; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures being considered by Government to check illegal adoption homes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) After reports from Andhra Pradesh about some irregularities, the Union Government has issued directives to all State Governments to take stringent action against organizations indulging in illegal activities in the field of adoptions.

(b) to (d) Though no separate letter has been written to the State Home Ministers, all the State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps to prevent similar incidents in future which *inter alia*, include:

(i) Licensing of all Residential Homes and setting up of a state adoption unit.

(ii) Joint inspections should take place of orphanages and agencies.

(iii) Enforcement of Orphanages and other Charitable Homes Act, 1960.

(iv) Monitoring of adoption activities quoting recent happenings in Andhra Pradesh.

Further directives have also been issued to the concerned agencies and organizations to streamling their activities and adhere to the Government guidelines in this respect.

Policy for Mentally Retarded Women

1631. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate a new policy for mentally retarded women to make them self-dependent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check the growing number of mentally retarded women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provided loans at concessional rates to persons with disabilities